



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

- WHEREAS: The white cane is a significant tool for independence and a symbol of equal access and expanding opportunities for blind and visually impaired individuals; and
- WHEREAS: The white cane provides blind and visually impaired individuals with a means of mobility that increases self-reliance and self-confidence, and allows such individuals to pursue more productive lives; and
- WHEREAS: The safety of blind and visually impaired individuals relies heavily upon the courtesy and consideration of others; and
- WHEREAS: White Cane Safety Day was established in 1964 to increase public awareness of the significance of the white cane and the need for motorists to exercise caution and courtesy when approaching an individual carrying a white cane; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia updated its statutes in 1990 to guarantee the right-of-way to blind pedestrians using a white cane or a guide dog when crossing a street; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia, in conjunction with the Center for the Visually Impaired, encourages and enables blind and visually impaired citizens to gain the training and education needed to fully participate in our workforce; and
- WHEREAS: There is often a lack of awareness among the general public regarding the abilities of blind and visually impaired individuals; and
- WHEREAS: During White Cane Safety Day, businesses, organizations, schools, volunteers, and news media are encouraged to promote greater awareness and understanding of the significance of the white cane in order to help ensure the safety of blind and visually impaired citizens, while helping to build their independence; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 18, 2017, as WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 13th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF